NUMBERS OF GENERA AND SPECIES OF CURCULIONIDAE (COLEOPTERA)^{1 2}

Charles W. O'Brien³, Guillermo J. Wibmer³

ABSTRACT: In 1971 the weevil family Curculionidae had 4237 genera and 44883 species recognized as valid. The numbers of genera and species are herein recorded by subfamily according to the biogeographic region in which they were described and totalled by region and for the world.

DESCRIPTORS: Curculionidae, weevils, list of subfamilies, numbers of genera, numbers of species.

The beetle family Curculionidae (the "weevils" or "snout beetles") is currently the largest family of animals in the world. In 1971 there were 4237 genera and 44883 species recognized as valid. In this paper we are treating the Curculionidae in the broad sense (*sensu lato*) and have included in our counts the various primitive weevil groups sometimes separated as families, *e.g.* Apioninae, Rhynchitinae, Pterocolinae, etc., but have not included Anthribidae, Brentidae, Proterrhinidae and Scolytidae.

Our data are based on counts which we made from the Colcopterorum Catalogus (volumes 27 through 30) and the Zoological Record (1864 through 1971). We have recorded the species and the genera from the biogeographic region in which they were described, though many are present in more than a single region. Hence the total number of species or genera known to be in a region may be greater than the totals in our table (*e.g.* there are currently 402 genera in the Nearctic region, but only 239 were described from there) but we wished to avoid counting the same genus or species twice. All synonyms have been deleted and all revalidations added.

In an attempt to be as consistent as possible in placing the genera and species in the proper biogeographic region, we were forced to make certain rules for deciding placement based on the limitations of the data available. For example, all genera or species described from China and Japan have been placed in the Oriental region because the exact localities are not listed in our 2 sources. So although species or genera from the northern reaches of these

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two countries perhaps can be better placed in the Palearctic region we treated all such as Oriental. Also all from Mexico were included in the Neotropical region, though much of the northern desert and mountain areas of Mexico are clearly Nearctic. In spite of these and a few other such necessities the bulk of the data fit well within the usual limits of the biogeographic regions.

We have recorded the data by subfamilies primarily following the classification in the Coleopterorum Catalogus. This relatively conservative classification fits reasonably our own concepts of the subfamilies and those used by most current weevil specialists. We have indicated a few exceptions to this in footnotes to the table.